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Pravda Vostoka.

## HITS POOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN SAMARKAND OBLAST

Samarkand Oblast is not utilizing its water resources to the fullest extent. Proof is found in the cotton-growing industry, where irrigation work is poorly organized. Sown areas are not efficiently irrigated. Often the irrigation work drags out over a 2- or 3-month period. In other cases, kolkhozes begin irrigation work too late. This causes plants to be puny and delays the normal course of cultivation.

During the past 2 months, no meetings have been held in Samarkand Oblast to discuss irrigation procedures. The Oblast Party Committee and Oblast Executive Committee have not made a single real attempt to investigate the condition of the oblast's water management and to disclose why the organization of irrigation work has not been improved.

The extreme defects in the organization of irrigation work are explained, first of all, by the unsatisfactory work done by the Oblast Water Management and its local organs. The principal defects are a result of water management workers' concentrating their efforts on large canals and irrigation installations and overlooking organizational work in kolkhozes. Consequently, it is of little concern to them that nearly one-third of the water released by kolkhozes for irrigating cotton fields never reaches the designated fields. In a situation such as this, where water-management specialists have been severed from kolkhoz operations, it can be seen that many engineers and technicians are overburdened with clerical work. In some cases, they have been cut off from practical work on irrigation canals and in kolkhozes for several years at a time.

Dzhambayskiy Rayon now has seven engineers who are so occupied with writing reports that they do not have time to plan irrigation work or even to visit kolkhozes. Specialists of the Oblast Water Management, together with employees working for the five irrigation systems, are expected to write a huge number of daily reports. Both the Oblast Party Committee and the Oblast Executive Committee know this, yet they are doing nothing to remedy the situation.

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The Soviet of Ministers Uzbek SSR and the Central Committees have asked organizations to utilize water prudently. Samarkand Oblast has been especially lax in fulfilling this demand because workers, agronomists, and water-management specialists do not provide adequate plans. Furthermore, Past-Dargomskiy, Charkinskiy, Dzhambayskiy, and other rayons allot water incorrectly because they do not take into consideration changes resulting from remedial measures. This mistake could be avoided if agronomists participated in compiling water-utilization plans.

An overwhelming majority of kolkhozes have no water-utilization plans at all. As a result of unplanned irrigation, on 20 May over half the cotton-raising area in Kara-Dar'yinskiy, Komsomol'skiy, Mitanskiy, Ishtykhanskiy, and Pay-Arykskiy rayons was not irrigated.

In addition, some areas of the oblast are wasting huge amounts of water. In some cases, water is needlessly expended on repeated irrigation of crops; in others, it is allowed to run into gullies and ditches or onto the road.

Shamsutdinov, Minister for Water Management of Uzbek SSR, along with other members of the Ministry, has not aided reconstruction work in oblast water management. He is indifferent toward the work. For example, the Oblast Water Management asked the ministry to avoid wastefulness in the Uzbek Water Supply System. All building materials designated for the five system administrations are sent to the city of Samarkand whence they are sent to the addressees. In the first place, this makes shipping more expensive, and secondly, it delays deliveries of needed building materials. Although Shamsutdinov promised to change the method of transporting building materials, nothing has been done during the past 2 months. Furthermore, the Uzbek Water Supply System long ago was supposed to have sent structural iron for constructing water dischargers, but the date for the intended receipt of this iron has long since passed and the iron has not arrived.

It is up to the ministry, the Oblast Committee of the Uzbekistan Communist Party, and the Oblast Committee to change their attitudes toward water management and to make a real attempt to improve it.

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